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Urban District of Woodhall Spa

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1968



WOODHALL SPA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A n n u a l R e p o r t
o f t h e
M e d i c a l O f f i c e r o f H e a l t h
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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

S.A. O'HAGAN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

D.A. NORMAN, M.A.P.H.I.

The Highways, Sewerage and Public Health Committees deal with the majority of Public Health Matters although a separate Parks and Playing Fields Committee deal with swimming baths.

All members of the Council sit on all Committees.

To The Chairman and Members of
The Urban District Council of Woodhall Spa,
Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Farnery and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for 1968.

Your programme of bungalows for the elderly, with Warden, came into operation and, as elsewhere in the country, it promptly proclaimed its success by attracting many more good applicants than could be accommodated. I am glad to hear that further bungalows are envisaged for this is one of the most practical ways of helping the maximum number within the availability of money. It was stated at the Health Congress at Eastbourne, 1969 that the cost of maintaining 2% of the elderly in part III accommodation (such as Eagle Lodge) was equal to all the welfare services provided for the other 98%. Whilst one accepts that those in Part III are those in greatest need and that many of those otherwise accommodated are in little need of welfare services and can thus properly be the subject of economies, such a disparity in costs is fantastic.

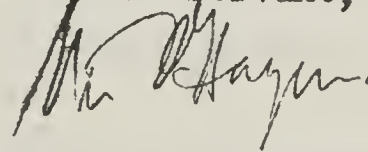
The figures were quoted for Eastbourne, which is a favourite place for "retiring immigrants", whose numbers are overwhelming the facilities - in fact, the situation which could, possibly, develop in Woodhall Spa. The figures go a long way to explain the lack of expansion of Part III accommodation and the sharp change of emphasis toward wardened bungalows, the necessarily high economic rents being largely or wholly met by national contributions through supplementary pensions. Hitherto, there has been a feeling that supplementary pensions reeked of charity, whereas the cost of administration renders them no more a charity than winnings on the football pool! To combat the increased cost of building it would be interesting to consider the conversion of some of the existing large buildings in the Spa. Bungalows are, of course ideal, having no stairs and no lifts to complicate life for the residents, but there might prove to be a chance of producing reasonably suitable dwellings at a reasonable cost, provided always that Central Government would play ball, because a small authority can only act as a sort of agency for national expenditure in such matters.

Looking at the causes of death of the under 65's - serious because of the lost earning power for the family and community - two, due to lung cancer might be regarded as potentially avoidable - two, due to coronary thrombosis, possibly preventable, whilst the remaining three are not, apparently, susceptible of preventive action. King Edward VII made a famous aphorism "If preventable, why not prevented?" The answers are complex. The middle aged smoke, worry and alternatively sit and hustle less because of immediate need but more because that is the way life has made them.

Probably the years before school age do more to predispose a man to worry, to smoke, and so on, than all the rest of his life. How then can we hope to prevent cancer caused by smoking or heart disease produced by worry? Whilst we have the intelligence to know the tools to prevent these diseases we have not yet the emotional motivation to employ them. This is true also of cancer of the neck of the womb - supremely amenable to early diagnosis and treatment - but the women just will not attend for examination, and so they die!

Since my last remarks on Big Brother and the faceless "they", the report of the Maud Commission has been published and received with universal disapproval. That it will be implemented despite all opposition, I have no doubt; just as Seeborn is being implemented, subtly, and without full public discussion. Only the Ministers Green Paper on the Health Services has been crushed by the weight of opinion. Still, in the withdrawal of the Green Paper, there is some little evidence that democracy for which so many of my generation thought they fought and died, has not died - yet.

I remain,
Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

Area of Urban District:	1874 acres
Registrar General's Mid-Year Estimate of Resident Population:	2210 Local Est. 2402
Density of Population:	1.15 persons per acre or 1.29
Number of Inhabited Dwellings:	739

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>BIRTHS</u>	Male	Female
<u>Live Births</u>	18	10
Rate per 1000 population	12.7	
Ratio of locally adjusted birth rate to national rate	0.98	
Illegitimate live births % total	7%	
<u>Still Births</u>		
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	0	
<u>Infant Deaths</u> (deaths under 1 year)	1	
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>		
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	36	
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	36	
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	0	
Comparability Factors		
Births 1.30		
Deaths 0.42		

Neo-natal Mortality Rate

	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
(deaths under four weeks per 1000 total live births)	0	0	0

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate

(deaths under one week per 1000 total live births)	0	0	0
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Perinatal Mortality Rate

(stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	0	42	0
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Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	0	0	0
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	0	0	0

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Male	21	17	19
Female	32	25	28
	—	—	—
Totals	<u>53</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>47</u>

Deaths per 1000 population	24.9	19.0	21.3
Comparability factor	0.36	0.36	
Ratio of locally adjusted death rate to national rate			0.75

Causes of Death at ages under 65 years

Cancer of Lung	2
Other Cancers	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	2
Congenital Anomaly	1

Causes of Death as shown in the Registrar General's Short List

Short List No.	Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in years							65 - 75	over 75
						1	5	15	25	35	45	55		
B19(1)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(6)	Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	M	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
B46(3)	Mental Disorders	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B27	Hypertensive Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B31	Influenza	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B34	Peptic Ulcer	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46(7)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B42	Congenital Anomalies	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BE48	All other accidents	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES			19	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	7
			28	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	26

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

A total of 6 notifications of measles comprise the total of notified infectious diseases during the year.

Immunization against measles was duly provided when authority was received but, in the absence of statistics, I am left with the feeling that there is a discrepancy between the number of children born and the number notified as having had measles. This has existed for years, but I am not aware of any vast campaign to immunize the remainder.

I doubt whether anyone now has a complete picture of the pattern of natural and induced immunity to the disease in Woodhall Spa.

The National Health Service

No changes have occurred in the National Health Service during the year.

Water Supply

The water supply of Woodhall Spa is under the control of the East Lincolnshire Water Board. No complaints have reached me regarding the quantity or quality of the water supplied.

The Department is now pressing Health Authorities to carry out a policy of fluoride correction on public water supplies.

After 11 years study, the benefits have been clearly shown whilst adverse effects have not. Until it is implemented I can only continue to advocate "tea for toddlers" as a partial source of the fluoride they need.

Out of 739 dwelling houses, 737 had a direct supply into the dwelling.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Short of a complete relaying of almost all the sewers with a modern leak proof system, there is no means available by which recurrent crises and excessive pumping costs can be averted. Such relaying would rank as maintenance and attract no grant. It is utterly beyond the resources of this authority and the policy of make do and mend will last as long as the authority does.

These factors are not new but need periodic mention.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

No change has been made to the collection system which is now somewhat overloaded. The number of gravel paths and distance from bin to kerbside slows the collection and makes it appear unfavourable compared with more compact districts.

The tip is rapidly filling up and additional land must be acquired. No one ever wants refuse on their land and difficulty is usually to be expected in acquisition of land for this use. Where machinery is available to remove soil to a suitable depth and subsequently replace it in the proper layers, it is possible to actually benefit low-lying land by raising it on a layer of refuse.

Common Lodging Houses

This item is required by the Department. It may suffice to say that no such institution has ever, to my knowledge, existed in Woodhall Spa.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

(a) Milk Supplies - Brucella Abortus

This is dealt with mainly at County level. I am always informed of positive results. No action was necessary in respect of Woodhall Spa,

(b) Liquid Egg (Pasteurization) Regulations 1963 No pasteurization plant operates in the area.

(c) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

Trade	No. of Premises	No. fitted to comply with Reg.16.	No. to which Reg.19. applies	No. fitted to comply with Reg.19.
Hotels and Public Houses	6	6	6	6
Cafes, Restaurants and Snack Bars	3	3	3	3
Butchers	3	3	3	3
Bakers	2	2	2	2
Grocers	4	3	4	4

(d) Poultry Inspection

No poultry processing premises operate within the Spa.

REPORT OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH

INSPECTOR DURING THE YEAR

1968

HOUSING:

Total number of dwelling-houses and flats in district	720
Total number of houses erected during the year :-	
(1) By local authority	13
(2) By other local authorities	0
(3) By other bodies or persons	19
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 - 1957 :-	
(1) Number of certificates of disrepair issued	0
Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :-	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts)	26
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	51
Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :-	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	22
(1) Proceedings under Public Health Acts	0
(2) Proceedings under Housing Acts	0
(3) Slum Clearance - proceedings under the Housing Acts :-	
(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made (individual unfit)	0
(b) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (individual unfit houses only)	0
(c) Number of dwelling-houses, or parts, subject to Closing Orders	0
(d) Number of dwelling-houses, or parts, rendered fit by undertakings	0
(e) Number of dwelling-houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders	0
(f) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance thereof	0
(g) Total number of dwelling-houses on which Demolition Orders are operative and which are still occupied except under the provisions of Sections, 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957	0
(h) Total number of dwelling-houses occupied under Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Acts, 1957	0

(i) Houses demolished or closed voluntarily by owners which would otherwise have been the subject of statutory action to secure demolition or closure	1
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Housing Act - Overcrowding

(a) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	0
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	0
(b) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	1
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	1
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	6

Housing Acts, 1949 - 59

Number of dwellings for which applications for grants have been received - Standard	5
- Discretionary	1
Number of dwellings subject to grant - Standard	4
- Discretionary	0
Number of houses owned by Local Authority which have been the subject of grant aid by the Ministry	0

Moveable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.	0
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Public Health Act, 1936

Number of site licences	2
Number of individual licences	1
Total number of moveable dwellings permitted under the above licences	13
Number of inspections during the year - sites	30
- dwellings	0
Number of contraventions remedied	0
Number of sites exempt from licence	0
Number of moveable dwellings thereon	0

FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses

Number in district	1
Number of inspections	2
Number of contraventions	0
Defects remedied	0

Ice Cream

Number of manufacturers on register	2
Number of premises licensed for sale of ice cream	8
Number of inspections of premises made	12
Number of contraventions found	0
Contraventions remedied	0
Number of samples taken	0

Meat Products

Number of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	1
Number of inspections made	2
Number of contraventions found	1
Contraventions remedied	1

Other Food Premises

Number of other food premises(i.e. excluding bakehouses, and premises registered for manufacture of ice cream and meat products)	27
Number of inspections made	34
Number of contraventions found	2
Contraventions remedied	2

Slaughterhouses

Number licensed - abattoir type	0
- private individual	0

UN SOUND FOOD

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or part	0
Other Food Condemned	30 lbs currants
Method of disposal	Incineration

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Closets

Number of houses with privy vaults in district	1
Number of houses with pail closets in district	2
Number of houses with water closets in district	733
Number of water closets substituted for pail closets or privy vaults	0
Do Council operate pail closet emptying service?	No

Cesspools and Septic Tanks

Number of cesspools and septic tanks emptied, cleaned etc.	2
Number of cesspools and septic tanks abolished	0
Do Council operate cesspool/septic tanks emptying service?	No

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made for new sewers or where existing sewage arrangements improved:-	0
Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewage disposal facilities or existing arrangements improved :-	0
Any part of district urgently requiring public sewers and/or treatment works for public health reasons :-	No

WATER SUPPLIES

<u>Domestic</u>	
Number of houses supplied from public mains	
- in house	737
- standpipe/outside tap	1
Number of houses supplied from private sources	0
New sources of supply and location	0
Number of public supplies closed	0
Any part of district requiring public supply for public health reasons	No
Number of samples taken for chemical examination	0
Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination	0

Swimming and Paddling Pools

	Swimming Pools	Paddling Pools
Number in operation	1	1
Number fitted with continuous mechanical filtration and chlorination	1	1
Number of samples of water taken for chemical examination	6	6
Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination	0	0

GENERALOffensive Trades

Number of Premises in district

0

Knackers Yards

Number licensed

0

Offices, Shops and Railways Premises Act, 1963

Number of premises licensed

32

Number of inspections

36

Number of defects

2

Number remedied

2

Disinfection and Disinfestation

Rooms or premises disinfected

(a) infectious disease other than tuberculosis

0

(b) tuberculosis

0

Number of premises subject to disinfestation

0

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Number of premises from which refuse is collected

770

Frequency of collection

7 - 8 days

Type of receptacle

bin

Method of disposal

Controlled Tipping

Is this satisfactory?

Yes

Number of Tips

1

Number of vehicles

1

Is collection by Local Authority or Contract?

L.A.

Details of nuisances abated

	After Informal Intimation	After Statutory Notice
Refuse	9	-
Foul Ditches, ponds and stagnant water	12	-
Drainage	9	-
Poultry and Animals	0	-
Dangerous Premises	0	-
Miscellaneous nuisances	8	-
	<u>38</u>	

Rats and Mice Destruction

Number of rodent operatives employed

1 part time

Number of premises treated

- dwellinghouses

51

- other premises

30

Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in the district?

No

Service covers, domestic, business and agricultural premises.

Atmospheric Pollution

Number of visits	0
Number of nuisances found	0
Number of nuisances abated	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part I of the Act - inspections for purposes of provisions
as to health (including inspections made by Public Health
Inspectors)

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. factories in which secs. 1 - 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	3	0	0
2. factories not included in (1) in which sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	9	19	0	0
3. other premises in which sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	10	22	0	0

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp.	by H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	-	-

